

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3218

November 16, 2017

Acting Administrator Robert W. Patterson
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
8701 Morrisette Drive
Springfield, VA 22152

Dear Administrator Patterson,

I write to thank you for your efforts to combat the flow of heroin and illicit fentanyl across the country. The opioid epidemic has destroyed far too many lives and infiltrated countless neighborhoods from California to New York. It is my belief that our continued collaboration will strengthen efforts to dismantle this deadly epidemic and supply local law enforcement with the resources it needs to put an end to this rampant tragedy once and for all.

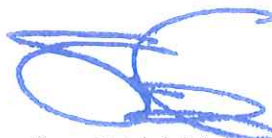
As you may know, I was able to work with the Office of National Drug Control Policy to expand the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) designation here in the Hudson Valley. Our efforts resulted in classifying the entire region as a contiguous HIDTA zone, which supplied our partners in local law enforcement with critical resources needed to address the distribution and sale of narcotics. I was pleased to learn of your efforts to establish six new enforcement teams across the country that will undoubtedly help put an end to this deadly epidemic.

While I fully understand all of the factors that went into determining where your enforcement teams are stationed, I respectfully ask that your Long Island task force extend its jurisdiction to include the Hudson Valley. According to NYS *Office on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS)*, the Long Island Region reported 1,067 opioid related deaths from 2013-2015. Comparatively, my Congressional District has lower reported deaths but at notably higher rates per capita. Since January of this year alone, St. Luke's Hospital in Orange County has reported over 120 overdoses, with nearly 13 of those resulting in fatalities. These rates are alarming and your assistance is needed to help mitigate this devastating issue here in the Hudson Valley.

As you can imagine, the HIDTA designation has brought significant attention to the trafficking and distribution hubs across the Hudson Valley. Your assistance is needed to ensure that this designation receives the back-up it needs to continue the great work we have started. Please know, I stand ready to be your partner and help to facilitate critical collaboration among my colleagues in the law enforcement community.

Again, thank you for your consideration in this matter. I look forward to working with the DEA to continue to combat the opioid epidemic here in the Hudson Valley.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress